



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Applicant:

You have applied for a Special Immigrant Visa. If you are issued such a visa, you have the option, but are not required, to receive certain benefits under the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program that are afforded to refugees who are resettling in the United States. More information about the program appears below. If you choose to participate and receive these benefits, you should indicate your interest by e-mailing a scanned copy of this letter with your signature to the U.S. Department of State's Refugee Processing Center at siv@wrapsnet.org.

The following is information that will help you decide if you want to participate in the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program:

- Resettlement is a multi-step process. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to provide additional information about yourself and your family. This information will be shared with the U.S. Department of State's Refugee Processing Center, which will share the information you provide with a resettlement agency in the United States. If your visa application is approved, that resettlement agency will help you adjust to life in the United States upon your arrival.
- The information sent to the resettlement agency will include information about you: your education, occupation, ethnicity, religion, family members who will be going with you, medical problems that need attention and location of your friends or relatives who already live in the United States. The resettlement agency will use this information to choose the resettlement site that is best for you and to help prepare for your arrival. Before your departure, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will tell you where in the United States you will be resettled. While you can express a view about where in the United States you might be resettled, we cannot guarantee that you will be given your preference if you elect to participate.
- IOM will contact you to arrange your travel and tell you your departure date. You and your family members are eligible to receive transportation to the United States funded through a travel loan. Before you travel, you will sign a promissory note committing to repay the loan over a three-year period. IOM will give you a sponsorship assurance document and will provide information about your travel itinerary. In the United States, IOM representatives will assist you at the port of entry and help you with arrival procedures.
- When you reach your final destination, a representative from the resettlement agency will meet you at the airport and take you to your initial housing and will assist you in settling in to your new community.

The U. S. Government has established guidelines and provides funding for the resettlement services that you will receive once in the United States. Your resettlement agency will have a local office in or near the town where you will be resettled and will provide basic living assistance and support for the first 30 days after you arrive. With the help of their staff, during the first 90 days after you arrive you will do the following things:

- Apply for a social security card (you must have one to get a job)
- Learn about and be referred to employment services
- Enroll your children in school
- Learn to use public transportation
- Find English language classes
- Begin to learn about U.S customs and law
- Learn about and be referred to community services that can help you, including social services, cash and medical assistance, and food stamps, if necessary
- Find out about other government services and programs and how to apply

It is important and in your interest to return a scanned copy of this form to the U.S. Department of State's Refugee Processing Center while your SIV application is pending so all arrangements can be put in place for you to be able to travel once your visa is issued. If you want to receive benefits from the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program, we will need to make important arrangements in advance of your departure. It typically takes about two months from the time an individual elects to participate for all necessary resettlement arrangements to be made and he/she can travel to the United States.

If you choose not to participate in the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program, upon arrival in the United States you will still be eligible for benefits and services funded by the Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), including Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance and Refugee Social Services. These federally funded programs provide a variety of services and have strict time limits and guidelines for participation. Iraqi recipients of SIVs are eligible for up to eight months of ORR benefits and services, beginning on their date of entry to the United States. Afghan recipients of SIVs are eligible for up to six months of ORR benefits and services, beginning on their date of entry to the United States. You can find additional information about these benefits by visiting the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr>.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR ELECTION BELOW:

If approved to receive a Special Immigrant Visa,

_____ I wish to participate in the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program. If there are any changes in my intention to participate, or if my family composition changes (the birth of a baby, for example), I will notify the U.S. Department of State's Refugee Processing Center or the Embassy's consular staff immediately.

_____ I have read this information letter and DO NOT wish to participate in the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program.

Petitioner's Case Number: _____

Name (block letters)

Date of Birth: _____

Signature

Date: _____